



## **Drysdale Forestry & Consulting**

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June 10, 2014

House Regulatory and Reform Committee Members:

I am writing in regard to current legislation that is intended to deregulate the profession of forestry (SB 481; 484, HB 4379; 4380). As a consulting forester in the NW Lower Peninsula and President of the Michigan Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters I urge you to vote NO on this legislation. These bills will have a definite negative effect on our private forestlands and forest industry in Michigan. The passing of these bills sends a bad message at a time when Michigan's Legislature is encouraging active forest management on private forestlands. The message these bills send to the public is that it is not necessary to utilize qualified professional foresters to manage their valuable resource. So far the Timber Advisory Committee (TAC), the Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC), the Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters (MACF), Michigan Forest Association (MFA), Michigan Timberman's Association, Michigan State University, and Michigan Technological University have all expressed their opposition to the deregulation of forestry. Additionally, all or most of the organizations have offered support in updating/strengthening RF and the Occupational Code.

The Michigan Registered Forester Regulation includes functions that a "Registered Forester" can and does perform. Without its inclusion in the Occupational Code other professions will define what a forester can and cannot do. This will result in more regulation and higher management expenses as well as an additional competitive disadvantage for the Michigan forest products industry. This longstanding program has legal standing in Michigan, and is being successfully housed and administered through the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

Sincerely,

Paul Drysdale, ACF, CF  
Registered Forester #660  
Certified Arborist MI-0721